

Claim Listing

1. (Previously presented) A method of identifying a computer connected on-line to a remotely located site, comprising the steps of:

searching a hard disk associated with the computer for an identifying element inherent to the computer;

combining such an identifying element, when found, together with other identifying information associated with the hardware of the computer, to form a unique identifier for that computer;

comparing the unique identifier for the computer to a store of such unique identifiers available to the remote site;

if the unique identifier is present in the store, accessing data which is available to the remote site and which is associated with that unique identifier, the data relating, at least partially, to a credit record of previous transactions effected from that computer; and

if the unique identifier is not present in the store, then storing it in the store and recording against it data associated with that computer.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the data associated to that computer, and against which the unique identifier is recorded, relates to further data associated with such previous transactions, ~~such as credit card details used during such previous transactions.~~

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in either one of claims 1 or 2 in which the identifying element that is searched for on the hard disk is a predetermined number.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 in which the predetermined number ~~is a serial number of the hard disk or another such number which~~ is unique to the hardware of the computer.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any~~ either one of the ~~preceding~~ claims 1 or 2 in which the other identifying information is information that is associated with the geometry of the hard disk.
6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5 in which the information associated with the geometry of the hard disk includes the number of sectors, platters and cylinders in the disk.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any~~ either one of the ~~preceding~~ claims 1 or 2 in which the combining function is performed on the computer.
8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any~~ either one of the ~~preceding~~ claims 1 or 2 in which the unique identifier is sent to the remote site, from where it is compared to the store.
9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any~~ either one of the ~~preceding~~ claims 1 or 2 in which the combining function is an encryption process.
10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the encryption process is a 'hash-type' encryption.
11. (Previously presented) A system for identifying a computer connected on-line to a remotely located site, comprising:
 - searching means for searching a hard disk associated with the computer for an identifying element inherent to the computer;
 - combining means for combining such an identifying element, when found, together with other identifying information associated with the hardware of the computer, to form a unique identifier for that computer;
 - a database of unique identifiers for computers, the database being available to the remote site and having data associated with each such unique identifier, the data relating, at least partially, to a credit record of previous transactions effected from that computer; and

comparator and operator means for matching the unique identifier with one in the database of such unique identifiers and with the data which is associated with a matched unique identifier, and for storing an unmatched unique identifier in the database and recording against it data associated with that computer.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 11 in which the data associated to that computer, and against which the unique identifier is recorded, relates to further data associated with such previous transactions ~~such as credit card details used during such previous transactions.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in either one of claims 11 or 12 in which the searching means is arranged to establish a predetermined type of number ~~such as the serial number of the hard disk of the computer~~ as the identifying element.

14. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in either one of claims 11 or 12 in which the searching means is arranged to establish a mark or number which is inherently particular to hardware connected to the computer, as the identifying element.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any~~ either one of claims 11 or 12 ~~to 14~~ in which the searching means is arranged to establish the other identifying information that is associated with the geometry of the hard disk of the computer.

16. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 15 in which the geometry of the hard disk includes the number of sections, platters and cylinders in the hard disk.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The method of claim 2, said further data comprising credit card details used during such previous transactions.

20. (New) The method of claim 4, the predetermined number being a serial number of the hard disk.

21. (New) A system as claimed in claim 12 in which said further data comprises credit card details used during such previous transactions.

22. (New) A system as claimed in claim 13, the predetermined type of number being a serial number of the hard disk.